GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3172
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
WILDLIFE POPULATION
SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wildlife population in South India has of late shown an increase;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether such measures to protect forest wealth is also likely to be taken for Northern region; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b)&(c) The estimated population of tiger, leopard and elephant in four Southern States for two consecutive census is as follows.

State	1993			1997		
	Tiger	Leopard	Elephant	Tiger	Leopard	Elephant
Andhra	197	152	46	171	138	57
Karnataka	305	455`	5500	350	620	6088
Kerala	57	16	3500	73	16+	5737
Tamil Nadu	97	138	2400	62	110	2971
TOTAL	656	761	11446	656	984	14853

(Note: + Population census have not been done. The census figure quoted during 1993 has been incorporated in 1997 also.)

The above trends of population are more or less on the same pattern as in other States of the country. In a few States tiger and leopard population show an increase whereas in others it shows a decline. However, there is a significant rise in the elephant population of southern states but selective killing of tuskers are reported from time to time. The Central and the State Governments have taken several initiatives for effective protection of wildlife but the success is limited because of increasing demand of ivory and parts and products from leopards and tigers in the clandestine market across the border. Poaching and illegal trade of valuable wildlife is the mastermind of organized mafias who are well trained and equipped with sophisticated weapons and communication equipments. The Central Government has been persuading the State Governments to strengthen the infrastructure. Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for this purpose. The details of financial assistance provided during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No	Name of the Scheme	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01

1	Project Tiger	1660.875	1749.162	1918.567
2	Project Elephant	547.01	596.57	636.85
3	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	934.883	1298.00	2479.984
4	Eco-Development in and around National Parks & Sanctuaries	634.499	729.208	1311.152
5	Beneficiary oriented tribal development scheme	350.00	269.580	310.65
	TOTAL	6026.267	6641.52	6657.203

(d) Does not arise.